



**Dickson Primary School September &
October 2024 Newsletter**

Welcome Back



As we embark on a new academic year, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to each of you. Whether you are returning to our school or joining us for the first time, we are thrilled to have you as part of our vibrant community.

Our school is a place where curiosity is encouraged, creativity is nurtured, and every child is valued. We are committed to providing a safe, supportive, and stimulating environment where pupils can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

To our parents, your partnership is invaluable. We look forward to working closely with you to ensure your child's success and well-being. Your involvement and support are crucial in making our school a place where every child can achieve their full potential.

To our pupils, we are excited to see you grow and learn. This year promises to be filled with new adventures, challenges, and opportunities. Remember, every day is a chance to discover something new and to be the best version of yourself.

Let's make this year a memorable and successful one together!



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, 24th September

- **DASH Starts Back:** We are excited to kick off the new term with our DASH program!

Thursday, 10th October

- **Sampler Day in LJHS for P6:** A wonderful opportunity for our P6 pupils to experience life at LJHS.

Monday, 14th - Friday, 18th October

- **Maths Week:** A week dedicated to fun and engaging maths activities for all pupils.

Monday, 14th October

- **Police Firework Talk to P5:** Important safety talk for our P5 pupils about fireworks.

Friday, 18th October

- **P6 Harvest Assembly:** Join us for a special assembly led by our P6 pupils.

Monday, 21st - Friday, 25th October

- **Parent/Teacher Interviews:** All children will go home at 1:30 PM each day to facilitate these important meetings.

Monday 21st October - Friday 25th Octpber

- **Slip into Slippers Week** (for our charity - Age NI)

Wednesday, 23rd October

- **Halloween Disco:**P1 - P4: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PMP5 - P7: 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Thursday, 24th October

- **Flu Vaccine:** Flu vaccinations will be administered to pupils.

Friday 25th October

- **Grandparents Breakfast @Breakfast CLub**

Monday, 28th October - Friday, 1st November

- **School Closed for Half Term:** Enjoy the break!

Meet Winnie and Louis: Our Paws Therapy Dogs in Training!





We are thrilled to introduce Winnie and Louis, our two adorable Paws Therapy Dogs in training, who have already become beloved members of our school community. Many of you might have heard your children excitedly talking about them last year, or perhaps you've spotted them on our brand-new mural.

Winnie and Louis are not just any dogs; they are here to bring joy, comfort, and a sense of calm to our pupils. Under the dedicated guidance of Mrs. Williamson, Mrs. Thompson, and Mrs. Tipping, who are training to be their handlers, Winnie and Louis have been busy learning the ropes. They have been out and about in the school, getting to know the children and familiarizing themselves with the school environment.

The presence of therapy dogs in schools has been shown to have numerous benefits, including reducing stress and anxiety, improving mood, and even enhancing learning. We are excited to see the positive impact Winnie and Louis will have on our pupils as they continue their training.

Keep an eye out for these furry friends as they make their rounds, spreading smiles and wagging tails wherever they go!



1 - Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club runs from 8:15am until 8:45am each morning. The children are offered a healthy breakfast and a range of activities and games. They also have some theme mornings during the year. This term Breakfast Club will be hosting a Grandparents Breakfast Morning on Friday 25th October.



2 - Primary 7 have been learning all about the Titanic since we have started back to school. The pupils are looking forward to our big trip to the Titanic Exhibition in November! We have held elections to choose our class representatives for the School Council and the Eco Council and I am sure they will do a great job. In Literacy, the pupils have researched a famous person of their choice, got lots of facts on them and planned, drafted and written a biography on that person. Our Numeracy has consisted of work on place value, rounding and addition.

Hello everyone! Welcome to our Primary 1 class. We have all settled in amazingly to our new room and are getting used to our class routines. In our class, there are 13 boys and 11 girls. Our teachers are Mrs Moore on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and Mrs Collings on a Thursday. Our P1 assistant is

Mrs Clarke and we are very lucky to also have Mrs Daly, Mrs Kmieliauskiene and Miss Tipping who support individual children within our P1 class.

Our topics throughout the year include 'The Three Little Pigs,' 'Toys,' 'Bears,' 'Minibeasts' and 'The Seaside.' Our school day begins with Structured Play, which includes playing indoors and outdoors. The children have already enjoyed exploring our current 'Three Little Pigs' topic through all of our interactive resources.

All the P1 children are now staying for dinner/ packed lunches. They are finding it very exciting eating with the older boys and girls at Dickson Primary School.

We are really looking forward to our school trips this year, which include a visit to 'Christmas Through the Ages' at the Palace Stables in Armagh and 'Streamvale Open Farm.'

We will keep you up to date with all our progress throughout the school year.

Mrs Moore

P1 Teacher





We have enjoyed a great start to the new school year.

The children have settled in well to the 'big' end of the school. In Numeracy, we have been learning all about the number system and in Literacy we have written some fantastic recounts. We are now learning to write our very own Newspaper Reports. Also, for our World Around Us topic, we have started learning about Norway; this will lead us into the world of the Norse (The Vikings) later in the term. The children are really enjoying our PE lessons where they have been learning how to play tennis! In Science, we have been learning about the 'Human Body' where the children have been learning all about the major organs of the body. Finally, it has been a thoroughly enjoyable start to the year, and it has been lovely getting to the children.

Mr Corkin



3 - Welcome to Primary 2! We have a lively class of 15 boys and 18 girls. Our teachers are Mrs Bunting from Monday to Wednesday and Miss Carson on Thursday and Friday. Our amazing classroom assistants are Mrs Parks and Mrs Holmes and we are thankful for Miss Elliot and Miss White who provide support with individual children in our class.

Our topic this term is 'The Farm' where P2 have been reading the story of the Little Red Hen and even got to have a go at making their own bread! We can't wait to discover more about farming, like what happens on the farm and what we might find there!



Welcome to P3 Mrs Wiggam and Mrs Collings are our P3 teachers. Learning in P3 is very practical and lots of fun. The topics we cover in P3 are: School's Cool, Transport, Weather, Celebrations and Katie Morag. We have a busy year ahead with lots of exciting things to learn and do.















Our charity this term is Age NI. Age Ni is a charity dedicated to helping everyone make the most of later life. They help thousands of people in Northern Ireland every year, providing companionship, advice and support for the older people who need it most.

We are hosting A Slip into Slippers week in school from 21st to the 25th October. If your child would like to take part they can bring their slippers to school on Monday 21st October and when they arrive in school slip out of their shoes and into their slippers. We will be putting donation tins in each classroom and the children can pop a donation in the tin on each day they wear their slippers. This can be any amount you feel comfortable donating to the charity.

During the week we will have lots of activities going on in the classrooms to raise the children's awareness about elderly people around us and we will be ending the week with a grandparents breakfast at breakfast club on Friday 25th October.



4 - Primary 4 have had a great start to the school year! There are 32 children in our class. Our teacher is Mrs Patterson, supported by Mrs Tipping and Miss Thompson. Our P.E. days are Tuesday and Wednesday. Our topic this month is Autumn. We did a big walk to Lurgan Park to explore the signs of Autumn.

We gathered lots of leaves and even had time for some fun in the play park! In Numeracy, we have been doing lots of place value work and learning about 2D shapes. In Literacy, we have been learning about nouns and how to use punctuation correctly in our writing. Our class Roots of Empathy programme has started, we are looking forward to learning lots from Mrs Jones and our baby teacher Lottie.

Exciting After-School Clubs at Our School!

We are thrilled to announce the schedule for our after-school clubs, offering a variety of activities to keep our students engaged and active.

Football: Kick off the week with some fun on the field! Our football club meets every Monday. For our younger students in P1 to P3, the session runs from 2pm until 3pm. The older students in P4 to P7 can join from 3pm until 4pm.

DASH: On Tuesdays, we have the DASH club for students in P4 to P7. This club runs from 3pm until 4pm

Hockey: Wednesdays are packed with excitement! Our hockey club meets from 2pm until 3pm for P1 to P3, and from 3pm until 4pm for P4 to P7. It's a fantastic opportunity for students to learn new skills and enjoy team sports.

Chess and Lego: Also on Wednesdays, we have two very popular clubs for our P6 to P7 students. Both the Chess and Lego clubs run from 3pm until 4pm and are currently full due to high demand. These clubs offer a great way for students to develop strategic thinking and creativity.

We look forward to seeing our students participate and have fun in these after-school activities. If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact us.



5 - Primary 5/6

Monday, Tuesday and Friday the teacher is Mrs Thompson. Wednesday and Thursday the teacher is Mrs Hutchinson. We have two classroom assistants in our class - Mrs Jones and Miss Watson. Swimming is on a Wednesday and we have PE on a Friday afternoon. This year in class we will be taking part in the Roots of Empathy Programme. We will have a baby visit our class every 3 weeks to help us learn about empathy and looking after ourselves. Our class topics this year will be - living things, Northern Ireland and Ancient Egypt.



6 - Welcome to Primary 5! We have quickly settled back into the new term and are having lots of fun plus learning plenty along the way. There are 24 pupils in our class and our teachers are Miss Carson from Monday to Wednesday and Mrs Hewitt Thursday and Friday. This term our topic is Living Things, and we have been discovering lots of new facts about different animals. In Literacy we have been reading Harry the Poisonous Centipede and enjoyed creating our own comic strips about the story. We are lucky to have swimming this term (a highlight of our week) on Wednesdays and our PE day is Monday.





SCHOOL & ECO COUNCIL

Our school are collecting donations for Craigavon Food Bank.

If you are able to donate any of the items on the shopping list please bring them into school From

Tuesday 15th October
- Thursday 17th
October.

Shopping list

Tinned meat/fish

Tinned fruit

Tinned veg

Milk (UHT or powdered)

Instant mashed potato

Instant coffee

Fruit juice (long life)

Chocolate bars

Toilet roll

Toiletries

